projections provided on the underside, arranged between the second projections, and having, in an unstressed state of the floor covering, a height smaller than a height of the second projections, whereby the third projections provide for an additional support of the floor covering on the floor when a load applied to the floor covering exceeds a predetermined value.

27. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein the first projections essentially have the shape of a spherical segment.

28. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the second and third projections have a shape of one of a flat square prism and a frustum.

29. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the second and third projections have a shape of one of spherical segment, flat truncated cone, and flat cylinder.

30. A floor covering according to claim 28, wherein the second projections have the shape of the one of a square prism and a frustum with rounded edges and rounded areas adjoining underside of the covering and extending to a plane of the floor covering, and the third projections have the shape of a spherical segment.

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31. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a distance between opposite edges of each of the second projections correspond to at least a distance between adjacent second projections.

32. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a distance between opposite edges of each of the third projections is less than a distance between adjacent third projections.

33. A floor covering according to claim 32, wherein the distance between the opposite edges each of third projections is less than ¾ of the distance between the adjacent third projections.

34. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein grid sizes of arrangements of the first and second projections essentially correspond, and a grid size of the third projections corresponds to the grid size of the arrangements of the first and second projections or a multiple thereof.

35. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein the first projections are formed by superimposition of a larger spherical segment and a smaller spherical segment mounted on the larger spherical segment.

36. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein a height of the first projections is less than ⅓ of a largest dimension thereof in a covering

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plane and a height of at least one of a second and third projections is in a range of between ⅓ and ½ of a dimension thereof in a plane of the floor covering.

37. A floor covering according to claim 26, further comprising at least one of perforations provided between the first and second projections and recesses formed in the underside.

38. A floor covering according to claim 26, wherein at least one of the perforations and the recesses have one of a circular cross-section and a cross-section of a segment.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claims 13-25 have been canceled. Claims 26-38 have been added.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

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